

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 EB-07 SAJ-01 NSC-05 INR-07 CIAE-00

SP-02 PRS-01 IO-13 L-03 /067 W

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R 161301Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7406

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONYAUL ZAGREB

C O N F I N I E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 4700

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT AU YO

SUBJ: YUGOSLAV REACTION TO AUSTRIAN MINORITY AND CENSUS LAWS

REF: (A) BELGRADE 1008, (B) BELGRADE 1983, (C) VIENNA 5712

1. SUMMARY: YUGOSLAWS HAVE REACTED TO AUSTRAIN PARLIAMENT PASSAGE OF MINORITY AND CENSUS LAWS WITH AIDE MEMOIRE PROTESTING THE LEGISLATION AND BY MOUNTING INTENSE PRESS AND POLITICAL PRESSURE CAMPAIG, KREISKY'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE PAHR IS NOW IN BELGRADE TO DISCUSS ISSUE, WITHOUT ANY APPARENT SUCCESS THUS FAR. PAHR AND AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR OTTO EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN OVER INTENSITY OF GOY REACTION TO AMBASSADOR. END SUMMARY.

2. NEGATIVE GOY REACTION TO AUSTRIAN MINORITY AND CENSUS BILLS GIVEN PROMINENT FRONT PAGE, ABOVE FOLD COVERAGE IN BOTH JUL 13 BORBA AND POLITIKA. ARTICLES WERE KEYED TO FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S JUL 12 MEETING AT WHICH FEC APPROVED AIDE MEMOIRE TO GOAL IN PROTEST OF AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT'S JUL 7 PASSAGE INTO LAW OF BOTH BILLS. HEADLINES IN BOTH PAPERS WERE SIMILAR (POLITIKA: "AUSTRIA VIOLATES PRECISE PROVISIONS", AND BORBA, "AUSTRIA RUDELY VIOLATES PROVISIONS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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STATE TREATY"). DESPITE COVERAGE OF OTHER SUBJECTS

DISCUSSED AT FEC MEETING, MINORITIES QUESTION RECEIVED
BULK OF PRESS PLAY, AND BOTH DAILIES CARRIED ENTIRE TEXT
LENGTHY YUGOSLAV PROTEST.

3. TANJUG SAME DAY REPORTED THAT GOYMLYMED THE O
O
BILLS TO BE IN "VIOLATIONILF THE CLEAR SPECISJC PROL
VIESONS OF THE STATE TREATY AND ARE AN ATTEMPT AIMED
AT IS UNILATERAL REVISION". TANJUG FURTHER STATED AXHAT GGJVISNSXP
SFHOOSGBITS LAYOS
PDMQOOZI ISXGAINST
THE LATEST VIOLATION OF THE EXISTING INTERNATIONAL
OBLIGATIONS OF" THE GOA AND THAT GOA "EXCLUSIVELY...WILL
BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH ARBITRARY VIOLATION OF
THE PROVISIONS OF THE STATE TREATY AND THE ATTEMPTS TO
REVISE THEM UNILATERALLY, WHICH CANNOT REMAIN WITHOUT
CONSEQUENCES FOR YUGOSLAV-AUSTRIAN RELATIONS". PRESS
JUL 14-16 CONTINUING TO CARRY STEADY BARRAGE ARTICLES
IN OPPOSITION TO AUSTRIAN ACTION.

4. GOY AIDE MEMOIRE ITSELF PRESENTED GOY'S EXPOSITION
OF THE INEQUITIES THE TWO BILLS SUPPOSEDLY WILL BRING
UPON AUSTRIA'S YUGOSLAV MINORITIES. IT WAS LESS STRIDENT
THAN THE PRESS REPORTING AND HELD OUT PROMISE FOR THE
CONSOLIDATION OF "THE FOUNDATION FOR THE PROMOTION AND
DEVELOPMENT OF YUGUSLAV-AUSTRIAN RELATIONS AND
COOPERATION", IF THE GOA "WILL REALLY START IMPLEMENTING
PROVISIONS OF THE STATE TREATY IN FULL, WITHOUT
RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS".

5. AMBASSADOR WAS BRIEFED JUL 14 BY AUSTRIAN
AMBASSADOR OTTO AND VILLIBALD PAHR, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
FROM KREISKY SENT TO BELGRADE TO DISCUSS ARTICLE 7
WITH GOY. OTTO SAID GOY'S REACTION HAD EXCEEDED AUSTRIAN
EXPECTATIONS. AUSTRIANS ARE PARTICULARLY DISMAYED BY
GOY CLAIM THAT MINORITIES LEGISLATION WOULD DETRACT
FROM EXISTING MINORITY RIGHTS IN AUSTRIA. OTTO AND
PAHR STATED THEY REPEATEDLY ASKED ASST FEDERAL FOREIGN
AFFAIRS SECRETARY MILICEVIC FOR YUGOSLAV BASIS TO THIS
CLAIM, BUT MILICEVIC'S RESPONSES AVOIDED SPECIFICS
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AND MERELY REPEATED FORMULATION. OTTO ADDED, HOWEVER,
THAT FEC ECONO MIC ADVISOR BLAZEVIC SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD
HIM PRIVATELY NOT TO WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT ISSUE (A LINE
ECHOED BY EMPLOYEE OF SLOVENIAN DELEGATION TO FEDERAL
ASSEMBLY, WHO ALSO COMMENTED ORDINARY SLOVENES DO NOT
FEEL AUSTRIANS DISCRIMINATING AGAINST THEIR BRETHREN.
AUTHOR OF SHARPLY-WORDED NIN EDITORIAL ON SUBJECT
SAID HE FORCED TO WRITE IT AND FOUND SUBJECT "A BIG

BORE").

NOTE BY OC/T: TEXT AS RECEIVED.

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 EB-07 SAJ-01 NSC-05 INR-07 CIAE-00

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6. OTTO AND PAHR BOTH SAID THAT AUSTRIANS HAVE TRIED TO EXPLAIN TO GOY THAT CENSUS NOT LEGALLY CONNECTED OR PRECONDITION OF MINORITY RIGHTS BILL. THEY ALSO FREELY ADMIT THAT KREISKY PERSONALLY DID NOT WANT CENSUS AND HAD TO COMPROMISE WITH OTHER PARTIES, WITH PRICE FROM KREISKY BEING LANGUAGE CENSUS.

7. BOTH EXPECT SLOVENIAN BOYCOTT OF CENSUS WITH PARTIAL CROATIAN SUPPORT. KREISKY ISSAID TO FEAR A SEMI-BOYCOTT. IN THE CASE OF A COMPLETE BOYCOTT, THE CENSUS WILL BE REGARDED AS IRRELEVANT AND THE SUBSTANLFSEOR LYNSLATION WOULD NOT BE LINKED TO THE CENSUS ITSELF. PAHR STATED THAT THE GOY HAS SUFFICIENT OTHER STATISTICAL INDICES, I.E. MINORITY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, TO GIVE THEM FLEXIBILITY IN IMPLEMENTING SUBSTANTIVE LEGISLATION. A SEMI-BOYCOTT, HOWEVER, WOULD PROVIDE GOA WITH POLITICAL PROBLEMS FROM GERMAN NATIONALIST GROUPS WHO WOULD ARGUE THAT THE SLOVENE MINORITY IS SMALLER THAN GOA WILLING TO CONCEDE.

8. PAHR TERMED KEY ISSUE TO BE USE OF SLOVENE LANGUAGE IN COURTS AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES IN DISTRICTS

WITH SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF SLOVENES. SINCE IN
CARINTHIA ONLY THE SLOVENES ARE BILINGUAL (THE GERMANS
DON'T SPEAK SLOVENIAN), THE SLOVENES FEEL THEY WILL
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HAVE EMPLOYMENT PREFERENCES. INDEED THE SLOVENES
WANTED A PROVISION INCORPORATED INTO THE SUBSTANTIVE
LEGISLATION CALLING FOR CIVIL SERVANTS IN COURTS AND
ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES IN SUCH DISTRICTS TO BE BILINGUAL.
PAHR CONTENDED THAT SLOVENES DID HELP TO DRAFT THE
SUBSTANTIVE LEGISLATION.

9. OTTO EXPECTS GOY TO KEEP THE ISSUE ALIVE UNTIL
NOVEMBER WHEN THE CENSUS IS SCHEDULED. AUSTRIANS
ARE WORRIED THAT THE MATTER COULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT
AUSTRIAN-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS. THEY FEEL GOY MAY INTER-
NATIONALIZE ISSUE BY RAISING IT AT UN OR AT NAC IN
COLOMBO. PAHR CONSTANTLY CLAIMED THAT AUSTRIANS, IF
PERMITTED, COULD RESOLVE ISSUE TO SATISFACTION OF ALL
SINCE THEY WOULD IMPLEMENT SUBSTANTIVE LAW FLEXIBLY.

10. PAHR HELD PRESS CONFERENCE JUL 15 WHICH YUGOSLAWS
FILLED WITH RINGERS FROM LJUBLJANA AND SLOVENIAN PAPERS
IN KLAGENFURT. MOST OF CONFERENCE WAS TAKEN UP BY
EXCHANGE OF OFFICIAL POSITIONS BETWEEN YUGOSLAV
QUESTIONERS AND PAHR. AT CONFERENCE PAHR RELEASED
TEXT OF JUL 14 AUSTRIAN AIDE MEMOIRE TO GOY DEFENDING
GOA LEGISLATION. PAHR STATED HE AND MINIC HAD MET
EARLIER IN THE DAY WITHOUT ACHIEVING A MEETING OF
MINDS ALTHOUGH BOTH AGREED EXCHANGE WAS USEFUL. DPA
CORRESPONDENT ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF INTERNATIONALIZING
ISSUE, TO WHICH PAHR RESPONDED: "WE WOULD REGRET IT.
IT WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA.
WE VALUE OUR RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA. BUT WE DO NOT
FEAR INTERNATIONALIZATION."

11. YUGOSLAV PRESS REACTION TO THESE AUSTRIAN EFFORTS
TO EXPLAIN AND CONCILIATE HAVE BEEN PREDICTABLY
INFLEXIBLE. TANJUG EDITORIAL CARRIED IN BORBA JUL 16
SAYS IF PAHR CAME TO BELGRADE BECAUSE OF IMPRESSION
YUGOSLAWS MISUNDERSTOOD AUSTRIAN LAW, HE SHOULD HAVE
SAVED HIS TIME. THEY DO UNDERSTAND. HEART OF PROBLEM
IS THAT CENSUS CHALLENGES BASIC POINT, I.E. NUMBER OF
SLOVENES IS IRRELEVANT AS ISSUE IS "HISTORICAL
HERITAGE AND RIGHTS ARISING FROM THE UN CHARTER".

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1)" COMMENT: A GOOD PART OF STRENGTH OF GOY REACTION
ATTRIBUTABLE TO FEELING THAT KREISKY HAD BACKED AWAY FROM
POSITIONS EXPRESSED TO KARDELJ AND TITO IN PRIVATE MEETINGS
EARLIER THIS YEAR. AMBASSADOR OTTO TOLD ME HOWEVER THAT
KREISKY HAD MADE VERY CLEAR THAT HE WAS NOT GOING TO MAKE
SAME POLITICAL MISTAKE WHICH HE MADE IN 1972 AND LET THE
AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST PARTY GET OUT FRONT ON THIS ISSUE. HE HAD
OPENLY DESCRIBED HIS PLANS AND HOPES TO KARDELJ AND TITO BUT
WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL IN DISENTANGLING SUBSTANTIVE LEGISLATION FROM
CENSUS AS MUCH AS HE WANTED TO. BUT FROM GOY POINT OF VIEW
THAT SIMPLY MEANS THEIR PRESSURE LESS EFFECTIVE THAN PRESSURE
OF "REACTIONARY ELEMENTS" IN AUSTRIA AND GOY PREFERS TO BE
EFFECTIVE WHEN APPLYING PRESSURE. SILBERMAN

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